(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government will give NH status to new roads in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala have recently made a reference for taking up 4 lanning of NH-47 and some projects on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) as well as for increasing the allocation during the current year to Rs. 100 crores for National Highway works in Kerala.

(c) and (d) Based on proposal received, a total length of 220 km. of new roads have already been given National Highway status during the Ninth Plan.

Widening of National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

757. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to widen the National Highways keeping in view the bus accidents in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of those Highways which would be widened and by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All National Highways will be widened to at least 2 lanes in a phased manner, depending on inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.